

WAUKESHA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

September 17, 2013

In Attendance:

Matthew Aslesen, DOT Bureau of Transportation Safety
Bruce Barnes, Traffic Engineer; Highway Commissioner Representative
Medical Examiner Lynda Biedrzycki; Medical Representative
Ms. Allison Blackwood; Wisconsin DOT Highway Engineering Representative
Sergeant Mark Garry; Village of Pewaukee Police Department Representative
Ms. Andrea Loeffelholz; U.W.-Madison, Transportation Information Center
Sergeant Peter Lynkiewicz; City of Muskego Police Department Representative
Lieutenant Thom Moerman; Chairman, Traffic Safety Coordinator
Captain Paul Repischak; City of New Berlin Police Department Representative
Kathleen Roe; Education Representative
Sergeant Mark Tushaus; City of Brookfield Police Department Representative

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Traffic Safety Commission Chairman Lieutenant Thom Moerman at 1:10 p.m. He introduced himself as being the new chairman for the Traffic Safety Commission. He asked for any new ideas or suggestions for the upcoming meetings, and stated he would like to see the meetings keep within an hour time range, if possible.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Ms. Kathy Roe, Education Representative, made a motion to approve the minutes from 05-14-13. Sergeant Mark Tushaus, from the City of Brookfield Police Department, seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The minutes were then approved.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Ms. Allison Blackwood, the Wisconsin DOT Highway Engineering Representative, stated she had received a citizen request from a person representing a condominium association on a speed limit issue on Highway 18 just west of CTH TT, in the City of Waukesha. It is currently posted at 55 miles per hour, and the request was to lower the speed limit to 45 miles per hour. A speed study was completed, and it did not support lowering the speed limit to 45 miles per hour. Ms. Blackwood was asking if there was support from the commission. The commission agreed with Ms. Blackwood to keep the speed limit at 55 miles per hour.

TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION REPORT

Matthew Aslesen gave a handout which contained the Year-To-Date Traffic Deaths and Fatal Crashes, the Number of Traffic Fatalities By County, the Residents Per Traffic Fatality, and Legislative Update. He stated fatal crashes have dropped from last year in every category, including motorcycles, which is impressive considering this time period included the large turnout of motorcycles due to the Harley Davidson event. One newly enacted legislative bill states that wherever sanitation workers are present, it is now considered a work zone. The bill states that fines are doubled for certain speeding violations, and for reckless driving, where sanitation workers are present.

He also stated the grants for Speed and Click It or Ticket, have been reduced to only being seasonal, and they are now for the most part going to the Sheriff's Department. He stated if you haven't been targeted for a grant but you are interested in joining the task force, to let him know.

Captain Erik Kehl, from the City of Delafield Police Department, was unable to attend the meeting, but had requested a question be brought up for Matthew Aslesen regarding traffic grants. Captain Kehl was asking if they begin a grant, if there would be money through the duration to fund the activity. Matthew Aslesen stated there would be enough money. In the past seat belt and speed grants have been suspended, however, with alcohol grants there would not be that problem. He stated he would follow-up and contact Captain Kehl.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

❖ **City of New Berlin Police Department**

Captain Paul Repischak stated that with the start of the school year there have been more and more school bus passing violations on county highways and speeding where the school buses stop. They have been doing a traffic initiative, making a lot of traffic stops, making their presence known, and trying to target the area of the complaints; however, school bus stops on county highways and speed will always be a problem.

❖ **City of Brookfield Police Department**

Sergeant Tushaus stated the Southeast Wisconsin OWI Task Force Steering Committee will be meeting on 09-18-13. at 2:00 p.m., at the Hales Corners Police Department, to decide on new positions and dates.

❖ **Medical Examiner's Office**

Lynda Biedrzycki passed out the list of traffic fatalities for the last three months. She asked for input as to what further information she could supply to the report to benefit the committee. She stated she could also e-mail the report before the meeting so members could review it earlier. After discussion it was indicated that toxicology results, type of vehicle, seat belt restraint, specific location, and other factors would be included to the report.

She also discussed the Child Fatality Review Team, in which any death under the age of 19, including motor vehicle deaths, are reviewed by the team. The team tries to address preventable deaths. They presently have no educator on the committee, and desperately need someone within the schools to work with them. Kathleen Roe stated she would be interested and would contact Lynda Biedrzycki.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS

- ➡ Captain Paul Repischak, of the City of New Berlin Police Department, reported that the City of New Berlin Police Department, had three fatal accidents, as follows.

- Date of Accident: 05-17-13

Location: Moorland and Coffee

A motorcycle traveling southbound on Moorland Road collided with a vehicle turning westbound onto Coffee Road. The vehicle failed to yield the right-of-way. The operator of the motorcycle, a 22-year-old male, was taken to Froedtert Hospital and passed away on 05-18-13. Alcohol was not a factor in the accident.

- Date of Accident: 05-18-13

Location: Sunnyslope Road

A 15-year-old female operating a bicycle was crossing Sunnyslope Road from the New Berlin Recreation Trail and was struck by a southbound SUV. She was taken to Froedtert Hospital and passed away on 05-19-13.

- Date of Accident: 08-29-13

Location: Racine Avenue and I-43

This crash involves a single vehicle accident involving a 45-year-old male who was operating a motorcycle on Racine Avenue and I-43. The vehicle was negotiating a roundabout too quickly and lost control.

- ➡ Chairman Lieutenant Thom Moerman reported that the Waukesha Sheriff's Department had seven fatalities (six crashes), as follows:

- Date of Accident: 06-15-13

Location: E/B CTH CI, 1/2 mile east of CTH Z (S64 W38705 CTH CI)

A 1994 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling eastbound on CTH CI and negotiating a left hand curve when it entered the south ditch line. It continued 125 feet in the ditch and struck the guardrail end, causing the 43-year-old female operator to be thrown from the motorcycle. The motorcycle came to rest on its left side in the eastbound lane of CTH CI. Alcohol or drugs did not play a part in the accident. The deceased apparently lost control and crashed, while not wearing a helmet, resulting in multiple injuries.

- Date of Accident: 06-18-13

Location: CTH X, 418 feet west of Lorraine Drive (E/O Saylesville Rd and Hwy. 83)

On 06-18-13, a 1994 Harley Davidson motorcycle was eastbound on CTH X and crashed into a deer. The motorcycle slid on the pavement on its left side until coming to rest 205.5 feet from the initial impact. The driver fell off the motorcycle and tumbled 137.3 feet before coming to rest in the middle of the roadway. The 54-year-old male driver was transported to Froedtert Medical Center by Flight For Life, where he was later pronounced deceased as a result of injuries sustained during the crash. It was confirmed that the deer was the contributing factor to the crash.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS CONTINUED

- Date of Accident: 06-24-13

Location: CTH CI, .90 mile east of CTH Z

A male driver and three passengers were traveling eastbound on CTH CI in a 2003 white Hummer when it swerved to avoid a deer in the roadway. The vehicle then left the roadway and flipped on its right passenger side. The front right 18-year-old passenger, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was partially ejected from the front right passenger window, and was pinned between the passenger side front door frame and the ground. He was pronounced deceased on the scene. Toxicology screening for both alcohol and drugs was conducted.

- Date of Accident: 08-14-13

Location: CTH C, 50 feet north of Hasslinger Dr.

A 1989 red Ford Mustang GT convertible was traveling northbound on CTH C. The Chenequa Police Department was in pursuit of the vehicle. The vehicle left the roadway north of Hasslinger Drive, overturned, and landed on the embankment. This single motor vehicle crash resulted in the fatality of the 35-year-old male driver. The driver was not wearing a seatbelt and did have the top down on the vehicle. Alcohol did have a factor in the crash.

- Date of Accident: 09-06-13

Location: Oakdale Dr, .10 mile south of Hazelhurst Lane (W255 S5434 Oakdale Dr.)

A 33-year-old male driver of a 2004 Ford F150 silver pick-up truck was traveling north on Oakdale Drive. A black sedan came close to the center line, which caused the Ford F150 to swerve and lose control of the vehicle, which contributed to the crash. The Ford F150 then entered the ditch on the east side of Oakdale Drive. The vehicle rolled three times. The driver was ejected from the vehicle on the first roll, and he flew into the air. After the driver was ejected, he hit the front windshield of the vehicle which was rolling in front of him before coming to a stop. The vehicle came to rest upright in the front yard of W225 S5434 Oakdale Drive. The driver was pronounced deceased at the scene.

- Date of Accident: 09-08-13

Location: STH 16, 10 feet east of CTH C

This was a double-fatal accident in which a 2013 Toyota Corolla, four-door, silver-in-color was traveling westbound on STH 16 in the left hand lane. A 1994 Nissan Sentra, four-door, black-in-color, was traveling eastbound on STH 16, attempted to exit at the CTH C ramp, swerved, crossed the gore area, went back across the eastbound lanes of STH 16, and entered the median and westbound lanes. The Nissan struck the Toyota head-on in the westbound lanes of STH 16, which was possibly due to a medical condition. The female driver of the Nissan was the daughter of the female passenger of the Nissan, and they were both deceased on the scene. The occupants of the Toyota also sustained multiple injuries, and the female juvenile passenger was transported by Flight For Life to Froedtert Memorial Hospital.

NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULED

The next meeting of the Waukesha County Traffic Safety Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2013, at 1:00 p.m., at the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department, in the Basement Training Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Sergeant Mark Tushaus, from the City of Brookfield Police Department, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Sergeant Mark Garry, from the Village of Pewaukee Police Department. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Gregesich
Waukesha County Sheriff's Department

(MINUTES APPROVED ON 11-12-13)